Permanent Membership in Security Council

3892. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the prospects of our bid for a permanent seat in the Security Council;

(b) by when such a move would be taken up in the UN Assembly;

(c) whether any initiative has been made to seek active support of other member countries to secure success in the matter;

(d) the progress achieved, so far; and

(e) the countries which have given an assurance of extending their support for India's permanent membership?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (e) The issue of the reform and the restructuring of the UN Security Council has been under discussion at the United Nations for sveral years. The UN Charter stipulates that any change in the existing structure must be approved by two-thirds of the General Assembly including all Permanent Members of the Security Council. There is no consensus so far on any of the substantive issues involved such as the criteria for selection of new Permanent Members, the question of veto etc. India has indicated its willingness to shoulder the responsibilities of Permanent Membership. Government is continuing with its efforts to secure permanent membership of the UN Security Council. There is growing momentum in support of India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. Many developing and developed countries, including some permanent members of the Security Council, have supported India's candidature either at the UN or bilaterally.